

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to join Catholic schools across my home state of Michigan and the country as they celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This year marks the twenty-third anniversary of the annual event, and its theme is an important one, "Catholic Schools: Restoring Faith in Education."

Since the founding of our great nation, Catholic schools have been integral to its growth and prosperity. Among the first schools in the country, Catholic schools educated countless individuals throughout the nation and provided an early first step toward creating a literate populace. Today, the role of Catholic schools is just as important. Strong academics partnered with a values-based education offers a tremendous option for children across the country. From rural areas to the inner city, the opportunities afforded by Catholic schools are immeasurable. They provide an important choice for parents and students who seek the best possible learning environment.

In the State of Michigan, Catholic schools are elemental in providing children of all ages with a solid education. Spread throughout Michigan's seven Catholic dioceses, over 96,000 students are enrolled in 355 schools. These schools play a critical role in adding to the rich diversity of American education. I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate the many Catholic schools in Michigan and the United States for the high quality of education they provide.●

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, 1998 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. On January 28, 1948, the Senate adopted a resolution converting the Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program (better known as the "Truman Committee" for its first chairman, Missouri Senator Harry Truman) into a permanent subcommittee. The special committee looked into charges of waste and abuse in defense contracting during the Second World War. After its first chairman resigned to become Vice President and then President of the United States, the Committee continued to investigate fraud and corruption in the post-war years. Its many successes convinced the Senate of the need to retain an ongoing mechanism to combat wrongdoing and to keep government honest. Today, we celebrate a half century of these endeavors.

As Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I wish to pay tribute to all of the Senators who have served on the Subcommittee, and to offer a brief survey of the highlights of the Subcommittee's activities over the years.

Senator Ralph Owen Brewster of Maine chaired the "Truman Committee" during the Republican Eightieth Congress, but when the Senate transferred the functions of the special committee to the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments—a precursor of Governmental Affairs Committee—Senator Brewster was not a member of that committee and could not chair the new subcommittee.

The Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Branch already had a subcommittee to Investigate Surplus Property Disposal, chaired by Michigan Senator Homer Ferguson. Senator Ferguson, a former judge, had also been a member of the Truman Committee, and had occasionally served as its acting chairman. Assuming the leadership of the new subcommittee, which was to be called the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Ferguson inherited the special committee's authority, functions, and powers. He merged its staff members with those from his subcommittee to Investigate Surplus Property Disposal. Notably, he retained the Truman Committee's chief counsel William Rogers (who later served as Secretary of State) and its chief clerk, Ruth Young Watt (a Maine native who served as chief clerk from the Subcommittee's beginning until her retirement in 1979). While technically reduced to a Subcommittee of a standing committee, the Permanent Subcommittee exercised authority almost as a separate entity, selecting its own staff and determining its own investigatory agenda.

Senator Homer Ferguson's Chairmanship ended with the election of 1948, which changed the Senate's majority and made Senator Clyde Hoey, a North Carolina Democrat, Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. The last U.S. Senator to wear a long frock coat and wing-tipped collar, Mr. Hoey was a distinguished southern gentleman of the old school. During his leadership, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations won national attention for its investigation of the "five percenters," Washington lobbyists who charged their clients five percent of the profits from any federal contracts they obtained for them. The "five percenters" investigation raised allegations of bribery and influence-peddling that reached right into the White House and implicated some members of President Truman's staff.

When Republicans regained the Senate's majority in 1953, at the beginning of the Eisenhower administration, Wisconsin's junior Senator, Joseph R. McCarthy, took over as Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee. Two years earlier, as Ranking Minority Member, Senator McCarthy had removed from the Committee another Republican Senator, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine. Senator Smith had issued a "Declaration of Conscience" against those who made unfounded charges and used character assassina-

tion against their political opponents. Although Senator Smith had not named a specific offender, her remarks were universally recognized as criticism of Senator McCarthy's accusations that Communists had infiltrated the State Department and other government agencies. Senator McCarthy retaliated by eliminating Senator Smith from his Subcommittee and replacing her with the newly elected senator from California, Richard M. Nixon.

When Senator McCarthy became Subcommittee Chairman, he staged a series of highly publicized anti-communist investigations, culminating in an inquiry into communism in the U.S. Army, which became known as the Army-McCarthy hearings. During the latter portion of these hearings, in which the Committee examined the Wisconsin Senator's attacks on the army, Senator McCarthy recused himself, and South Dakota Senator Karl Mundt served as Acting Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Gavel-to-gavel television coverage of the hearings raised public concern about Senator McCarthy's treatment of witnesses and his irresponsible use of evidence. In December of 1954, the Senate censured Senator McCarthy for unbecoming conduct, and the following year the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations adopted new rules of procedure that better protected the rights of witnesses. These actions vindicated the courageous stand of Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith.

In 1955, Senator John McClellan of Arkansas began eighteen years of service as Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. Senator McClellan appointed the young Robert F. Kennedy as the Subcommittee's Chief Counsel. That same year, Members of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations were joined by Members of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee on a special committee to investigate labor racketeering. Chaired by Senator McClellan and staffed by Robert Kennedy and other staff members of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the special committee directed much of its attention to criminal influence over the Teamsters Union, calling Teamsters' leaders Dave Beck and Jimmy Hoffa to testify. The televised hearings of the special committee introduced Senators Barry Goldwater and John F. Kennedy to the nation, and led to passage of the Landrum-Griffin Labor Act.

After the special committee completed its work, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations continued to investigate organized crime. In 1962, the Subcommittee held hearings in which Joseph Valachi outlined the activities of La Cosa Nostra, or the Mafia. Robert Kennedy, by then Attorney General, used this information to prosecute prominent mob leaders and their accomplices. The investigations also led to passage of major legislation against organized crime, most notably